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year notes that 466 thousand rubles were assigned for the construction of the Vetrinskaya school in the Polotskaya oblast', but only 195,000 rubles have been used so far, and that not advantageously. Unsuitable brick was supplied, which was used in the building of walls. When the builders noticed it, 25,000 bricks had to be torn down and new bricks used for rebuilding the walls. In this way at least 35 to 40 per cent of the means annually assigned for building schools is not used. This means that it is not enough to have Soviet rubles in store: school buildings must be assured of labor power and building material. And the schools are the last of all to receive these advantages. Financial means, labor power and building material are first assigned to constructions of military significance, as the Soviet rulers know very well.

[474]

Apart from the state constructions, there exists in villages the so-called "method of the people's construction". This method is very simple. Beside many other economic campaigns the kolkhozniks /71/ of a rayon are bound to build with their own efforts and means several schools, clubs, reading rooms, bridges, etc. The paper Zviazda quotes as an example the Sharkovskiy rayon in the Polotskaya oblast', which accepted the obligation to build at the beginning of the school year, by the "method of the people's construction", five seven-grade and one elementary School, to expand the school capacity to one thousand student seats, carry out thorough repairs in six schools and less general repairs in forty-two schools. We have no information as to the way the kolkhozniks of the Sharkovskiy rayon fulfilled this colossal program. If with a budget of hundreds of thousand of rubles and with building material and labor power at the disposal of the rayon executive committees the building of schools goes on for several years, one wonders whether kolkhozniks with the "method of the people's construction" will be able to enrich the rayon at their own cost with six new seven-grade schools, expand the school capacity to one thousand seats, and repair all the schools in the rayon. Judging by the pace of the work in constructing schools, Belorussian children will have to study reading and writing in inadequate, cold, restricted schoolrooms for many years to come.

The Soviet authority has assigned the fuel supply and maintenance of schools in country localities to the local population. In the usual confusion and without any organization or building material, schools are not being repaired and are deteriorating. In a number of rayons,

438 A large-scale industry had developed.[1] In place of the semi-handicraft workshops which predominated in the old days, large modern
433 factories arose. The timber industry was modernized and developed for increased production of prefabricated dwellings, paper, cardboard, matches, chemical products, and artificial silk. Industries, such as meat-packing, starch and treacle, distilling, dairy produce, tanning, and flax, were highly developed. The mineral resources of the country served as a basis for the building up of the pottery, glass, cement, and similar industries. The engineering plants in Byelorussia turned out machine tools, agricultural machinery and peat-cutting machinery. The extraction of peat was conducted on an extensive scale.

483 After the Revolution, agriculture in Byelorussia also underwent
241 a fundamental change. The individual peasants united in collective
474 farms (kolkhozes) in which they jointly cultivated the soil and had their co-operative dairy farms, piggeries, poultry runs, and beehives. They received substantial assistance from the state in the form of financial credits, tractors, harvester combines, and other agricultural machinery, seeds, equipment for draining marsh-lands, and innumerable other kinds of assistance. Under the Soviet system the cultivated areas of Byelorussia increased considerably, and in 1937 exceeded that of 1913 by 35 per cent.

Area and Population

Area

131 The present area of the Byelorussian Republic is about 228,300 square kilometres. Nearly half of this territory was added in September 1939 when, after the collapse of the Polish State, Western Byelorussia, which had been seized by Poland in 1920, was rejoined to the B.S.S.R. as part of the Soviet Union. The area of this region was 108,000 square kilometres, and the population, 4.8 millions. Of this added territory, 35.5 per cent. was classified as arable, 23.5 per cent. as forests, 24 per cent. as pastures and meadows, and 1.5 per cent. as gardens and orchards.

In August 1940 the area of Byelorussia decreased somewhat when parts of the Vileika and the Baranovichi provinces were transferred
[728] from the B.S.S.R. to the Lithuanian Soviet Republic. Another small decrease occurred after the war in Europe had ended; in August 1945 a treaty was signed between Poland and the U.S.S.R., adjusting the Soviet-Polish frontier roughly along the "Curzon Line", with some deviations in Poland's favour. In consequence of this, Poland received a small strip of the territory which had been previously incorporated in the B.S.S.R., including the largest town of Western Byelorussia, Bialystok.

Population

162 At the census of January 1939 the population of the B.S.S.R. was 5,567,976 (an increase of 11.7 per cent. over December 1926, when the

[1] [Between 1919 and 1941 -- Analyst]

TABLE IV

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Byelorussian S.S.R.: Production of Principal Crops, 1932 and 1937
(thousand metric tons)

	Byelorussian Republic		Soviet Union	
	1932	1937	1932	1937
Wheat	77.4	202.6	20,310.0	46,860.0
Other grain	1,616.3	1,618.3	49,480.0	73,430.0
Total grain	1,693.7	1,820.9	69,790.0	120,290.0
Potatoes	5,061.0	7,005.6	43,070.0	65,630.0
Flax	57.4	71.4	500.0	n.a.

Sources: Socialist Construction, Moscow, 1936 and 1939; Sown Areas of the U.S.S.R., Moscow, 1939; and Socialist Agriculture, Moscow, 1939.

Since the natural fertility of Byelorussian soil is not very high, improvements in the yields of various crops depend greatly on efficient cultivation, particularly on generous fertilizing, and other modern measures (including mechanization) which were widely applied on the farms of the U.S.S.R. during the collectivization of agriculture.

Collective Farms (Kolkhozes)

474

The greatest agricultural problems of the Soviet Union have been to increase the area under cultivation, to improve the methods of production, to raise yields per hectare as well as total production, and from this increased production, to insure that adequate supplies of food reach the towns and factories. The primary means of achieving these aims was the organization of individual farmers into collectives (kolkhozes), in which they could jointly maintain their livestock and work the land, using the most scientific methods of livestock breeding, soil cultivation, crop rotation and fertilizing, but above all, increasing the use of farm machinery. In the long run mechanization, with the replacement of horses by tractors, makes a greater area available for grain and other agricultural products such as potatoes and flax.

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An outstanding feature of these new developments was the establishment of machine and tractor stations (M.T.S.), in which the government concentrated thousands of tractors, threshers, combines, and other large machines. The M.T.S., which had their own workshops and staffs of mechanics, carried out all the mechanized farm work for the collectives - ploughing, sowing, harvesting, etc. - in return for which they received fixed fees, payable in agricultural produce.

474 As a result of the growth of collectivization and the M.T.S., the need for human labour decreased; and the entire process of production was reduced to about half the number of work days required on individual farms. By the end of the second Five Year Plan (1938) there were 242,392 collective farms in the Soviet Union; 9,665 of them were located in Byelorussia. Altogether they cultivated 85 per cent. of the total area sown in the U.S.S.R. and produced the bulk of the grain, cotton, sugar, flax, and other raw materials required for the population, industry, and export. At the same time, the individual plots which the kolkhoz members were permitted to keep were furnishing a large part of the berries, fruit, and vegetables which appeared in the city markets.

There were two principal ways in which collective farms delivered agricultural products to the government: through payments in kind to the M.T.S. and the flour mills; and through direct sales of a certain quota. Whatever remained after the fulfilment of the quota, the collectives could distribute among their members.

As has been said, the Byelorussian Republic by 1938 had 9,665 collective farms, which in that year cultivated 2.8 million of the 3.3 million hectares sown in the Republic. That is, Byelorussian kolkhozes were responsible for tilling nearly 85 per cent. of the cultivated area of the Republic in 1938, while the machine and tractor stations were serving nearly 87 per cent. of the total crop area, not only the collectives, but some individual farms as well.[1] In the B.S.S.R. the number of M.T.S. had steadily increased from 63 in 1932 to 200 by 1937, and just before the German attack in June 1941 there were 342 machine and tractor stations in the Republic. The increase after 1937 was largely due to the growth of mechanization in Western Byelorussia, where under the Soviet system more than 100 of these stations were organized. (See next section.) 1/

407 A large number of machines was available in the Republic before the war, both in the M.T.S. and on individual farms. From 1932 to 1937 the number of tractors in the B.S.S.R. grew from 3,200 to 8,100; and by June 1941 the Republic had 12,000 tractors. In 1932 there had been only four harvesting combines in operation in Byelorussia; by the end of 1937 the number had risen to 674; and in June 1941 the Republic had 1,500 combines and 2,300 threshers at work. In addition to tractors and combines, trucks have also played an important part in the mechanization of Byelorussian agriculture. By 1938 the Republic possessed 4,237 trucks for farm purposes; and their total carrying capacity was reckoned at 7,600 tons. (Compare 195,800 trucks in the U.S.S.R. as a whole, with 352,100 tons carrying capacity.) At the

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1 According to a recent statement by the Byelorussian Minister of Agriculture, work on the cropland "before the war" was 60 per cent. mechanized. This lower percentage is explained by the fact that up to June 1941 Western Byelorussia was still in process of mechanization, and far behind other regions of the B.S.S.R.

1/ [See cat 116, pp 26-27 -- Analyst]

407 outbreak of the German attack, it was estimated that the B.S.S.R had 12,000 tractors, 1,500 combine harvesters, and 20,000 other agricultural machines.

Agricultural Development of Western Byelorussia

241 311 The arable area of the Byelorussian Republic was increased by about 3,597,000 hectares in 1939, when Western Byelorussia was rejoined to the Soviet Union. According to the Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland, London, 1941, this territory in 1938 had 136,000 hectares under cultivation of wheat, 1,132,000 hectares under rye, 664,000 hectares under oats and barley, 518,000 under potatoes, and 60,000 hectares sown to flax.

241 423 Before the incorporation of the western territory into the B.S.S.R., its agriculture was primitive. Eighty to 90 per cent. of the population were engaged in agricultural work, and there was practically no mechanization. After 1939, however, many changes were made. The People's Assembly of Western Byelorussia declared all land, timber, and water resources to be the property of the state, (that is, public property); and subsequently, 646,000 hectares of land were distributed among the poorer peasants, as well as 540,000 hectares taken from large estates and given to poor and middle-class farmers and to formerly landless hired men. Fourteen thousand hired men and poor peasants also received horses, and 33,400 households received cows.

474 [475] Many of the farmholdings were then organized into collectives; about 1,000 kolkhozes were formed in a short time, and over 100 machine and tractor stations erected. In 1940 these west Byelorussian M.T.S. had 1,500 tractors at their disposal - about 15 per cent. of all the tractors held by the M.T.S. of the Republic.

[727] The process of collectivization in Western Byelorussia was interrupted by the German occupation, which destroyed the Soviet system of land utilization, and at present the work of reorganization is not moving along very rapidly. By 1946 only about 100 collective farms, combining 2,802 individual holdings, had been reorganized and were again functioning; and this is but a small fraction of the peasant population in the western region. However, government officials state that no immediate pressure is being exerted to promote collective farms.

German Devastation of Agriculture

727 241 The German occupation from June 1941 until the summer of 1944 left Byelorussian agriculture exhausted and devastated. The enemy had destroyed 9,200 villages and more than 1,200,000 peasant holdings. Ninety-two state farms and about 10,000 collective farms had been plundered and destroyed. All the food processing plants had been blown up; and over 316 machine and tractor stations had suffered destruction and looting; from them the Republic lost 8,996 tractors, 1,105 harvester combines, and countless numbers of other agricultural machines which the Germans either wrecked or carried off to Germany.

Destruction of the Lenin Collective Farm[1]

474 The Lenin Collective Farm consisting of three villages and one sub-village, comprises an area of 1,500 hectares situated about 30 kilometres south of Minsk. It was organized in 1930 with 100 households, which had increased to about 200 by the outbreak of the war. At present there are 172 households with a population of 572 persons, of whom 208 are workers. Of these workers, only 57 are men. This proportion is explained partly by the shortage of men, and partly by the fact that a number of men reside in the village but work off the farm. There are 150 school children, and the remainder of the population are pre-school children, aged persons, and invalids.

474 727 During the German occupation, enemy forces were not situated in these villages; but punitive expeditions would come at intervals from Minsk, surround a village, and proceed to terrorize and kill the inhabitants. On at least one occasion the villages were bombed. The local people believe that the Germans were using the villages for target practice. In all, 177 people were killed during the war, of whom 20 were killed while fighting at the front, and the rest were civilians. Eight entire families were destroyed, and every family without exception suffered the loss of one or more members. Numerous children were orphaned.

The people remained on the farm during the first year of German occupation; then in the summer of 1942 they all fled to the forests - 70 leaving in a single day - and did not return to the farm until after liberation in 1944. Seventy-five members of the collective were partisans, in addition to those who served in the army.

The farm was thus completely abandoned for two years. The people returned late in the summer of 1944 to find their farm stripped of machinery, most of the barns and sheds burned, and nearly half of the dwellings destroyed. All the livestock not removed to the woods with the people had been either killed or driven off by the Germans before their retreat. The following losses were enumerated by the Collective Farm Chairman:

Dwellings. Seventy-two houses, including adjacent sheds; a clubhouse with accommodation for 160 people; and a large schoolhouse.

Barns and stables. Three large grain barns; three stables for horses; two stables for cows (120 animals capacity each); a pig shelter large enough for 150 animals; and a poultry farm with capacity for 260 hens.

Machinery and tools. Four tractors; three straw cutters; one silage cutter; two root cutters for making fodder; one clover thresher; one three-ton truck; and three narrow-row seeders.

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1 Report by Davis McEntire, UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, December 13, 1946.

474 727 The farmers had hidden their ploughs, harrows, and small implements so that these were available with which to begin farming again in 1944; but all the heavy equipment was lost. Livestock losses amounted to 500 cattle, 125 horses, approximately 1,000 pigs, and about 800 sheep and goats. The peasants had taken their horses into the forests, and of those, 40 were brought back at liberation. These 40 horses and four cows were the sum total of livestock on hand at liberation.

In 1944, owing to the lateness of the season and to lack of implements, seeds and livestock, the farmers were able to sow only a very small part of their land. Most of the area brought into cultivation that first year had to be spaded by hand, because there was no draught power. In 1945 the farmers succeeded in bringing half of their their cropland under cultivation, still substituting hand spading for ploughing to a considerable extent.

As stated earlier, the area of this collective is 1,500 hectares. About 200 lectares are in meadows, 69 hectares in woods, and 421 hectares in pastures, gullies, and roads. The pre-war crop area was 810 hectares, and in 1946, this had been largely restored, except for hops, but not the pre-war yields. The following table shows the areas of cultivation in 1945 and 1946.

TABLE V

241 474 Lenin Collective Farm, Minsk Raion, Byelorussian S.S.R.: Crop Areas in 1945 and 1946 (in hectares)

	1945		1946	
Grain				
Oats	125		155	
Barley	75		75	
Wheat	25		19	
Winter rye	nil		186	
Winter wheat	"		8.5	
Buckwheat	10		8	
Total grain		235		451.5
Potatoes	100		94	
Vegetables	20		14	
Lupin (sown with rye)	nil		(83)	
Lupin (for seed)	10		9	
Clover	nil		90	
Hops	"		2[1]	
Total area sown		365		660
Fallow		445		150
Total cropland		810		810

[1]Pre-war area of hopyard, 4.5 hectares

Source: UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

474 Special mention should be made of the hopyard, which before the war was a very profitable enterprise, bringing in a gross income of 65,000 roubles in 1940. The hops died out during the war and were replanted in 1946; they are expected to produce a marketable crop this year (1947).

433 241 474 Productivity of the Lenin collective farm[1] in 1946 was down to 40 per cent. below pre-war yields. The grain yield was 1,0 to 1.2 metric tons per hectare, compared with yields of 1.6 to 1.8 tons per hectare before the war. The potato crop was only 8 tons per hectare, half the pre-war yield of 16 tons, because the farm had unusually bad luck with potatoes in 1946, several fields being washed out completely.

The extreme decline in attributed to shortages of artificial fertilizers, formerly used in large amounts; the shortage of manure, resulting from the greatly diminished livestock herds; and the lack of machinery and manpower.

Ploughing is shallower than before the war; and seed bed preparation, less careful. The farmers realize that their ploughing and seed bed preparation are below the standards of good farm practice, but they are unable to do better until they get more tractors, implements, and horses. Before the war this farm customarily hired three or four tractors from the M.T.S.; in 1946 it was able to secure only one. Only 86 horses were available in 1946, and these on the average were smaller than before the war, and could not be fed as well. However, productivity in 1946 was greater than in the preceding year, chiefly because the farm had more men, more horses, and more equipment.

The Extent of the Post-War Recovery

433 241 In the Byelorussian Republic as a whole the crop year 1945 was the first full year of reoccupation by Byelorussians. By 1946 agricultural production had made definite progress toward supplying the population with food. The sown area in 1946 reached 76 per cent. of pre-war, but the level of yields was depressed by inadequate soil preparation, shortages of fertilizers, and unfavourable weather. As a result the grain crop, although better than in 1945, was still only half of pre-war. The vegetable crop, grown largely from UNRRA seeds, was from 75 to 80 per cent. of pre-war in total production; while the potato crop, because rainfall was heavy during part of the growing season and because plantings were only 60 per cent. of pre-war, reached less than half pre-war in total output.

Seed Production

433 241 The inadequacy of seed supplies has been a serious hindrance to full recovery of the pre-war area of cultivation. Particularly short were vegetable seeds (except potatoes), clovers, vetch, and timothy and other grasses, most of which are biennials or perennials requiring two years for the production of seed. There is also a shortage of flax seed;

[1] [See cat 116, pp 15 - 16, 314-5]

731 This natural catastrophe, in addition to all the other burdens of post-war recovery, has necessitated even greater efforts by the farmers to overcome handicaps and to boost production as high as their hardest labours will allow.

● 474 The Soviet Government has, since the drought,[1] taken additional steps to eliminate difficulties and to strengthen the collective farm management. On September 19, 1946, the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. issued a decree calling for the elimination of abuses of the collective farm charter. [647] A Collective Farm Council was created, the main tasks of which are to establish "strict control over the observation of collective farm statutes"; to guard the collective farm property against embezzlement or misuse; and to ensure greater participation in the farm management by the workers themselves.

Under the new regulations of September 1946, all lands illegally taken from the collectives are being restored. Sovietskaya Byelorussia reported: "More than 81,000 hectares of land... have been returned to the collective farms (in Byelorussia)." Unauthorized personnel are being taken off the payrolls; administrative staff is being reduced; and the collective farmers are taking greater part in the administration of the kolkhoz. General meetings are called regularly, and management and auditing committees elected by the membership are responsible for reporting back to the membership. "The democratic procedure of convening general meetings for discussion of and decision on vitally important questions... is now being returned."[1]

Planned Increases in Agricultural Production

185 433 According to the Five Year Plan, 1946-50, the crop area of the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is to reach 5.3 million hectares, including 3.2 million hectares under grain, 344,000 hectares under industrial crops, 1.06 million under potatoes, vegetables, and fruit, and 690,000 hectares under fodder crops.

Average yields of all crops are expected to be as follows: grain, 1.03 metric tons per hectare; potatoes, 14.5 tons per hectare; and flax, 0.3 tons per hectare. These are somewhat lower than the yields fixed for the Soviet Union as a whole because of the relatively poor quality of the soil in Byelorussia: for example, in the B.S.S.R. in 1950 the average yield of grain is to be 1.2 metric tons per hectare, while that of flax is put at 0.4 tons per hectare.

According to the Moscow periodical, Slavyane (1946, II-III, pp.32-35), the B.S.S.R.'s total production of grain in 1950 will represent an increase of 10 per cent. over 1940. On this basis, the 1940 grain harvest must have been between 2.7 and 3 million tons. In the U.S.S.R. the 1940

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1 Sovietskaya Byelorussia, Minsk, December 20, 1946.

1 [in 1946--Analyst]

648 UNRRA clothing and contributed clothing are distributed free. The local soviet in each instance prepares a list of persons eligible to receive such clothing. Otherwise, textiles and shoe leather supplied to Byelorussia under the UNRRA programme are converted into clothing and shoes at local co-operatives, or artels, which perform an important role in the production of consumers' goods in the Republic.

•474 295 Typical of the producer co-operatives engaged in processing UNRRA-supplied textiles in the Novy Put Clothing Artel in Minsk which UNRRA Mission observers visited in November 1946. At this artel, garments were being made for war orphans cared for in children's homes. The finished garments were then distributed free of charge to the children, the government paying the artel for the cost of manufacture only.

Orders for the manufacture of clothing at this artel can be placed by organizations or by individuals; and as a general rule, the customer supplies his own materials and pays the artel only the established production cost. On orders placed by individuals, the production prices are, for a child's winter coat, 75 roubles,[1] for a woman's winter coat, 275 roubles, and for a man's winter coat, 250 roubles. Men's jackets are manufactured for 85 roubles, and trousers, for 45. Orders placed by organizations or wholesale outlets receive a 20 per cent. reduction on this scale.

The artel is organized on a co-operative profit-sharing basis. Its members are the workers employed in its shops and offices. In addition to their share in the artel's annual income, the member-workers are also paid regular wages for work performed. The monthly earnings of the employees in this artel were said to average 500 roubles. Earnings as high as 2,000 roubles a month were cited for cutters, but the majority of skilled workers earn from 600 to 1,200 roubles montly.

The artel "Novy Put" was first organized in 1928, during the first Five Year Plan. Before the German invasion in 1941, it had a membership of 400 workers, and in addition to the main establishment, it had four branches in various districts of Minsk. The membership, composed largely of Jews, suffered a very high casualty rate during the war; 90 per cent. were said to have perished at the hand of the Germans. In July 1944, shortly after the liberation of Minsk, the artel was reorganized; and it has been steadily growing both in membership and in output. By July 1, 1946, it had 110 workers.

The shoe artels are organized along the same general pattern as the clothing artels. In November 1946 the Red Shoemaker artel in Minsk was turning out a thousand pairs of workers' shoes and three thousand pairs of children's shoes per month.[2] The present membership

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1 5.40 roubles equal one U.S. dollar; 21.36 roubles equal one pound sterling.

2 UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

295 is 70 workers, who are also share-holders, receiving 20 per cent. of
474 the annual income in addition to regular wages for work performed.

Before the war the "Red Shoemaker" artel was situated in a different part of the city. The production process was then entirely mechanized, and the membership consisted of 300 workers. The plant was demolished by the Germans during the war; and the present artel was organized in 1945 when five pre-war members returned to Minsk, following the liberation. At present there is practically no machinery in the artel, and shoes are being turned out by hand.

Medical Supplies: General Health

727 In relation to the vast destruction of Byelorussian medical facilities during the war, the UNRRA medical programme of just over one million dollars is a drop in a bucket. According to official Soviet estimates, the Germans in Byelorussia "ruined and plundered 1,136 hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries," which represented 75 per cent. of all hospitals and almost 100 per cent. of the medical supplies and equipment of the Republic. The damage has been calculated at 600 million roubles (about 120 million dollars).

164 Byelorussian officials today say that the general health of the population is below pre-war standards; but there are no alarming epidemics. Infant mortality is higher than in 1940; and tuberculosis, which increased markedly during the war, is still a serious problem, especially among returned war prisoners, partisans, and former "slave labourers". Typhus, which flared up during the German occupation, still occurs sporadically; and malaria, which spread rapidly during the war when no treatment was available, is still widely prevalent, but is being gradually reduced by the restoration of swamp drainage and mosquito control projects.

146 The most general problem is perhaps malnutrition; and because of the food shortages, scurvy, rickets, and anaemia are prevalent. Children are small for their age; and the adult population, as might be expected in the absence of adequate food, clothing, and shelter, is not in optimum health.

UNRRA Shipments

648 Up to January 31, 1947, nearly 70 per cent. of the UNRRA medical
742 programme for Byelorussia had been fulfilled; 163 gross long tons of drugs and equipment had been shipped. The largest single item of the medical programme is a penicillin plant, parts of which began to arrive in the U.S.S.R. in December 1946. In connection with the plant, the Byelorussian Government has designated a penicillin trainee to study penicillin production in Canada. A specialist hired by UNRRA is to aid in assembling the plant and in training other Byelorussian technicians in the production of the drug. The Byelorussian Government has expressed interest in using the same plant for the production of streptomycin.

TABLE IV

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9: Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RC1 Belorussia RC1
[Constitution as of July 1, 1947]

CONSTITUTION (FUNDAMENTAL LAW) OF THE BELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Chapter I. The Social Structure

642 Art. 1. The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is a socialist state of workers and peasants.

Art. 2. The Soviets of Working People's deputies, which grew and attained strength as a result of the overthrow of the landlords and capitalists, the achievement of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the liberation of the Belorussian people from national oppression by tsarism and by the Russian imperialist bourgeoisie and the destruction of the Belorussian nationalist counter-revolution, constitute the political foundation of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Art. 3. In the Belorussian SSR all power belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

471 Art. 4. The socialist system of economy and the socialist ownership of the means and instruments of production firmly established as a result of the abolition of the capitalist system of economy, the abrogation of private ownership of the means and instruments of production and the elimination of the exploitation of man by man, constitute the economic foundation of the Belorussian SSR.

421 Art. 5. Socialist property in the Belorussian SSR exists either in the form of State property (the possession of the whole people) or in the form of co-operative and collective farm property (property of a collective farm or property of a co-operative association).

475 Art. 6. The land, its natural deposits, waters, forests, mills, factories,
421 mines, rail, water and air transport, banks, communications, large State-organised agricultural enterprises (State farms, machine and tractor stations and the like), as well as municipal enterprises and the bulk of dwelling houses in the cities and industrial localities, are State property, that is, belong to the whole people.

421 Art. 7. The common enterprise of collective farms and co-operative organiza-
474 tions, with their live stock and implements, and the products of the collective farms and co-operative organizations, as well as their common buildings, constitute the common socialist property of the collective farms and co-operative organizations.

[472] In addition to its basic income from the public collective farm enterprise, every household in a collective farm has for its ~~private~~ use a small plot of land attached to the dwelling and, as its ~~private~~ property, a subsidiary establishment on the plot, a dwelling house, live stock, poultry and minor agricultural implements — in accordance with the Rules of the Agricultural Artel.

423 Art. 8. The land occupied by collective farms is secured to them for their
474 use free of charge and for an unlimited time, that is, in perpetuity.

472 Art. 9. Alongside the socialist system of economy, which is the predominant form of economy in the Belorussian SSR, the law permits the small private economy of individual peasants and handicraftsmen, based on their personal labour and precluding the exploitation of the labour of others.

421 Art. 10. The right of citizens to personal ownership of their incomes from work and of their savings, of their dwelling houses and subsidiary household